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Circular Letter No. 258.
November 14, 1905.

To American Teachers:--

Nearly all the American teachers employed by the Department last year availed themselves of the opportunity presented of taking a course in Spanish under the supervision of the Department. For the present year the Department will present three courses which may be taken under its supervision. The Elementary and Intermediate Courses are practically identical with the two courses given last year; in addition, a third or Literary Course is offered for those teachers who have completed the more advanced work previously given or whose knowledge of Spanish is such that they may with profit pursue this advanced work. Examinations will be given at the end of the course, probably about the first of June, and certificates showing the proficiency attained will be issued to all teachers whose standing is satisfactory.

Although this work is entirely optional, the Department strongly recommends that every American teacher make an effort to acquire a knowledge of Spanish. It is impossibly for anyone to understand the most elementary conditions in Porto Rico without that knowledge, and a teacher who is totally unacquainted with the language of his

pupils cannot hope to accomplish as much as he could do were he reasonably familiar with it.

In the Elementary and Intermediate Courses the books to be used will be provided by the Department without cost; in the Advanced or Literary Course it will be impossible for the Department to furnish books free to the teachers, but they will be supplied at exact cost. All the books required by the teachers of any district will be sent to the Superintendent and are to be obtained from him upon signing the required receipt, or upon paying for the books. Nearly all of the teachers have found it preferable to purchase the books used in these courses, since they are valuable for future study and may be obtained at wholesale price.

Teachers who wish to take one of these courses should forward a written application to this office stating the course desired. Applications must be made on or before Tuesday, November 21, on which date the necessary books will be ordered from the States.

Respectfully,

KBH-3512
Enclosure

Acting Commissioner.